LISTING OF THE PENDING CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 240. (Canceled without prejudice).

241. (Previously presented): A method to detect the presence and/or clinical course of a neoplastic disease in an individual, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(1) measuring a first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the first individual being the first individual's plasma fragment level;

(2) measuring, in a second individual, the plasma level of the same thrombospondin fragment or fragments measured for the first individual, said second individual considered to not have neoplastic disease, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the second individual being the second individual's plasma fragment level;

(3) utilizing the results of steps (1) and (2) in a diagnosis as to whether the first individual has a neoplastic disease such that the greater the extent to which the first individual's plasma fragment level exceeds the second individual's plasma fragment level the more likely that the diagnosis will be that a neoplastic disease is present in the first individual; said fragment or fragments being at least 6 continuous amino acyl residues in length but of a molecular weight of 140 kDa or less; wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

242-243. (Canceled without prejudice).

244. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 241 further comprising the steps of assaying the first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein said appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

245. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 241 or 244 wherein the measurement of a plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments comprises the use of a binding agent, said binding agent capable of binding said fragment or fragments.

246-247. (Canceled without prejudice).

248. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 245 wherein the thrombospondin fragment or fragments are separated from thrombospondin before said fragment or fragments are bound to the binding agent.

249. (Previously presented): A method to detect the presence and/or clinical course of a neoplastic disease in an individual, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(1) measuring a first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the first individual being the first individual's plasma fragment level;

(2) measuring, in a second individual, the plasma level of the same thrombospondin fragment or fragments measured for the first individual, said second individual considered to not have neoplastic disease, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the second individual

being the second individual's plasma fragment level;

(3) utilizing the results of steps (1) and (2) in a diagnosis as to whether the first individual has a neoplastic disease; said fragment or fragments being within a molecular weight range selected from the group consisting of 80 to 140 kDa, 40 to 60 kDa, and 20 to 35 kDa such that the greater the extent to which the first individual's plasma fragment level exceeds the second individual's plasma fragment level the more likely that the diagnosis will be that a neoplastic disease is present in the first individual, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

250-251. (Canceled without prejudice).

252. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 249 further comprising the steps of assaying the first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein said appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

253. (Currently amended): A method of Claim 249 or 252, wherein the measurement of the level of a plasma thrombospondin fragment or fragments comprises the use of a binding agent, said binding agent capable of binding said fragment or fragments.

254-255. (Canceled without prejudice).

256. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 253 wherein the thrombospondin fragment or fragments are separated from thrombospondin before said fragment or fragment are

bound to the binding agent.

257-264. (Canceled without prejudice).

265. (Previously presented): A method of Claims 241 or 244 wherein the molecular weight of each of the fragment or fragments is at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

266. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 245 wherein the molecular weight of each of the fragment or fragments is at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

267. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 248 wherein the molecular weight of each of the fragment or fragments is at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

268. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 245, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

269. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 248, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

270. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 266, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

271. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 267, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

272. (Currently amended): A method of Claim 249 or 252 wherein the molecular weight of the fragment or each of the fragments is within a molecular weight range selected from the

group consisting of 85 to 140 kDa [[~~fragment~~]], 47 to 53 kDa, and 27 to 33 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

273. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 249 or 252 wherein the molecular weight of the fragment or fragments is within a range of 80 to 140 kDa wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

274. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 253, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

275. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 256, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

276. (Previously presented): A method to detect the presence and/or clinical course of a neoplastic disease in an individual, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(1) measuring a first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the first individual being the first individual's plasma fragment level;

(2) measuring, in a second individual, the plasma level of the same thrombospondin fragment or fragments measured for the first individual, said second individual considered to not have neoplastic disease, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the second individual being the second individual's plasma fragment level;

(3) utilizing the results of steps (1) and (2) in a diagnosis as to whether the first individual has a neoplastic disease such that the greater the extent to which the first individual's plasma fragment level exceeds the second individual's plasma fragment level the more likely

that the diagnosis will be that a neoplastic disease is present in the first individual; wherein said fragment or fragments either start between amino acyl residues I-165 and V-263, inclusive, and end between amino acyl residues R-792 and Y-982, inclusive, or is a portion of the range I-165 to Y-982, said portion being at least 150 amino acyl residues in size and wherein I-165, V-263, R-792 and Y-982 refer to residues 183, 281, 810, and 1000, respectively of SEQ ID NO:38 .

277. (Canceled without prejudice).

278. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 276 further comprising the steps of assaying the first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein said appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

279. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 276 or 278 wherein the measurement of a plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments comprises the use of a binding agent, said binding agent capable of binding said fragment or fragments.

280. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 279 wherein the thrombospondin fragment or fragments are separated from thrombospondin before said fragment or fragments are bound to the binding agent.

281. (Previously presented): A method of Claims 276 wherein said fragment or fragments further comprising an amino acyl sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 1.

282. (Previously presented): A method of Claims 276 or 278 wherein the molecular

weight of the portion is at least 20 kDa , wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

283. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 279 wherein the molecular weight of the portion is at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

284. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 280 wherein the molecular weight of the portion is at least 20 kDa wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

285. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 279, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

286. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 280, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

287. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 283, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

288. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 284, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

289. (Previously presented): A method to detect the presence and/or clinical course of a neoplastic disease in an individual, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(1) measuring a first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the first individual being the first individual's plasma fragment level;

(2) measuring, in a second individual, the plasma level of the same thrombospondin fragment or fragments measured for the first individual, said second individual considered to not have neoplastic disease, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the second individual being the second individual's plasma fragment level;

(3) utilizing the results of steps (1) and (2) in a diagnosis as to whether the first individual has a neoplastic disease such that the greater the extent to which the first individual's plasma fragment level exceeds the second individual's plasma fragment level the more likely that the diagnosis will be that a neoplastic disease is present in the first individual; the molecular weight of said fragment or any of said fragments not exceeding 140 kDa, the molecular weight of said fragment or fragments being at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction, and wherein the fragment or each of said fragments comprises a portion of thromobospondin selected from the group consisting of

a collagen type V binding domain, and

a domain or a part thereof within the protease-resistant core of thrombospondin, said domain being selected from the group consisting of a domain of inter-chain disulfide bonds, an oligomerization domain, a procollagen-like domain, a type 1 repeat, a type 2 repeat, and a type 3 repeat.

290. (Canceled without prejudice).

291. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 289 further comprising the steps of assaying the first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein said

appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

292. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 289 or 291, wherein the measurement of a plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments comprises the use of a binding agent, said binding agent capable of binding said fragment or fragments.

293. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 292 wherein the thrombospondin fragment or fragments are separated from thrombospondin before said fragment or fragments are bound to the binding agent.

294. (Previously presented): A method of Claims 289 wherein said fragment or fragments further comprising an amino acyl sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 1.

295. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 292, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

296. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 293, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

297. (Previously presented): A method to detect the presence and/or clinical course of a neoplastic disease in an individual, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(1) measuring a first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the first individual being the first individual's plasma fragment level;

(2) measuring, in a second individual, the plasma level of the same thrombospondin fragment or fragments measured for the first individual, said second individual considered to not

have neoplastic disease, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the second individual being the second individual's plasma fragment level;

(3) utilizing the results of steps (1) and (2) in a diagnosis as to whether the first individual has a neoplastic disease such that the greater the extent to which the first individual's plasma fragment level exceeds the second individual's plasma fragment level the more likely that the diagnosis will be that a neoplastic disease is present in the first individual; wherein said plasma level is measured using a binding agent that is capable of binding to said fragment or fragments provided that said binding agent does not bind a region selected from the group consisting of the fibrinogen-binding region in the amino-terminal domain of thrombospondin, and a heparin-binding sequence in the amino-terminal domain of thrombospondin; wherein the molecular weight of each of the fragment or fragments is at least 20 kDa but not more than 140 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

298. (Canceled without prejudice).

299. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 297 further comprising the steps of assaying the first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein said appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

300. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 297 or 299, wherein the thrombospondin

fragment or fragments are separated from thrombospondin before said fragment or fragments are bound to the binding agent.

301. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 297 or 299 wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

302. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 300, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

303. (Previously presented): A method to detect the presence and/or clinical course of a neoplastic disease in an individual, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

(1) measuring a first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the first individual being the first individual's plasma fragment level;

(2) measuring, in a second individual, the plasma level of the same thrombospondin fragment or fragments measured for the first individual, said second individual considered to not have neoplastic disease, the plasma level of said fragment or fragments in the second individual being the second individual's plasma fragment level;

(3) utilizing the results of steps (1) and (2) in a diagnosis as to whether the first individual has a neoplastic disease such that the greater the extent to which the first individual's plasma fragment level exceeds the second individual's plasma fragment level the more likely that the diagnosis will be that a neoplastic disease is present in the first individual; wherein said method comprises the use of a binding agent that binds to an epitope within a plasma fragment in the molecular weight range selected from the group consisting of 80 to 140 kDa, 40 to 60 kDa,

and 20 to 35 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

304. (Canceled without prejudice).

305. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 303 further comprising the steps of assaying the first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein said appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

306. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 303 or 305 wherein the thrombospondin fragment or fragments are separated from thrombospondin before said fragment or fragments are bound to the binding agent.

307. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 303 or 305, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

308. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 306, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

309. (Currently amended): A method to detect the presence and/or clinical course of a neoplastic disease in an individual, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

1) utilizing a first binding agent to obtain a quantification, for the plasma of a first individual, of a total, thrombospondin plus either the thrombospondin fragment or fragments;

2) utilizing a second binding agent to obtain a quantification, for the plasma of said first

individual, of thrombospondin only;

3) utilizing the difference between the quantifications obtained in steps (1) and (2) as a quantitation, for the plasma of said first individual, of the amount of thrombospondin fragment or fragments;

4) utilizing the first binding agent to obtain a quantification, for the plasma of a second individual, of a total, thrombospondin plus either the thrombospondin fragment or fragments, said second individual considered not to have neoplastic disease;

5) utilizing the second binding agent to obtain a quantification, for the plasma of said second individual, of thrombospondin only;

6) utilizing the difference between the quantifications obtained in steps (4) and (5) as a quantitation, for the plasma of said second individual, of the amount of thrombospondin fragment or fragments; and

7) utilizing the results of steps (3) and (6) in a diagnosis as to whether the first individual has a neoplastic disease such that the greater the [[~~the~~]] extent to which the first individual's plasma level of said thrombospondin fragment or fragments exceeds the second individual's plasma level of said thrombospondin fragment or fragments, the more likely that the diagnosis will be that a neoplastic disease is present in said first individual;

wherein the first binding agent binds to an epitope shared by thrombospondin and the thrombospondin fragment or fragments, and wherein the second binding agent binds to an epitope present in thrombospondin but not present in the fragment or fragments.

310. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 309 wherein said fragment or fragments

are at least 6 continuous amino acyl residues in length but of a molecular weight of 140 kDa or less; wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

311. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 309 wherein said fragment or fragments are within a molecular weight range selected from the group consisting of 80 to 140 kDa, 40 to 60 kDa, and 20 to 35 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

312. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 309 wherein wherein said fragment or fragments either start between amino acyl residues I-165 and V-263, inclusive, and end between amino acyl residues R-792 and Y-982, inclusive, or is a portion of the range I-165 to Y-982, said portion being at least 150 amino acyl residues in size and wherein I-165, V-263, R-792 and Y-982 refer to residues 183, 281, 810, and 1000, respectively of SEQ ID NO:38.

313. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 309 wherein the molecular weight of said fragment or any of said fragments not exceeding 140 kDa, the molecular weight of said fragment or fragments being at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction, and wherein the fragment or each of said fragments comprises a portion of thromobospondin selected from the group consisting of

a collagen type V binding domain, and

a domain or a part thereof within the protease-resistant core of thrombospondin, said domain being selected from the group consisting of a domain of inter-chain disulfide bonds, an oligomerization domain, a procollagen-like domain, a type 1 repeat, a type 2 repeat, and a type 3

repeat.

314. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 309 wherein said first binding agent does not bind a region selected from the group consisting of the fibrinogen-binding region in the amino-terminal domain of thrombospondin, and a heparin-binding sequence in the amino-terminal domain of thrombospondin; wherein the molecular weight of each of the fragment or fragments is at least 20 kDa but not more than 140 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

315. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 309 wherein said first binding agent binds to an epitope within a plasma fragment in the molecular weight range selected from the group consisting of 80 to 140 kDa, 40 to 60 kDa, and 20 to 35 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

316. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314 or 315 wherein one or both of said first and second binding agents is an antibody.

317. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 241 wherein the first individual is suspected of having, or known to have, a neoplastic disease.

.318. (Canceled without prejudice).

319. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 317 further comprising the steps of assaying the first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein said appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement

is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

320. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 317 or 319 wherein the measurement of a plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments comprises the use of a binding agent, said binding agent capable of binding said fragment or fragments.

321. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 320 wherein the thrombospondin fragment or fragments are separated from thrombospondin before said fragment or fragments are bound to the binding agent.

322. (Previously presented): A method of Claims 317 or 319 wherein the molecular weight of each of the fragment or fragments is at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

323. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 320 wherein the molecular weight of each of the fragment or fragments is at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

324. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 321 wherein the molecular weight of each of the fragment or fragments is at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

325. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 320, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

326. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 321, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

327. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 323, wherein the binding agent is an

antibody.

328. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 324, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

329. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 249 wherein the first individual is suspected of having, or known to have, a neoplastic disease.

330. (Canceled without prejudice).

331. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 329 further comprising the steps of assaying the individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein said appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

332. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 329 or 331 wherein the measurement of a plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments comprises the use of a binding agent, said binding agent capable of binding said fragment or fragments.

333. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 332 wherein the thrombospondin fragment or fragments are separated from thrombospondin before said fragment or fragments are bound to the binding agent.

334. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 332, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

335. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 333, wherein the binding agent is an

antibody.

336. (Previously presented) A method of Claim 276 wherein the first individual is suspected of having, or known to have, a neoplastic disease.

337. (Canceled without prejudice).

338. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 336 further comprising the steps of assaying the first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein säid appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

339. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 336 or 338 wherein the measurement of a plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments comprises the use of a binding agent, said binding agent capable of binding said fragment or fragments.

340. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 339 wherein the thrombospondin fragment or fragments are separated from thrombospondin before said fragment or fragments are bound to the binding agent.

341. (Previously presented): A method of Claims 336 or 338 wherein the molecular weight of each of the fragment or fragments is at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

342. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 339 wherein the molecular weight of each of the fragment or fragments is at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined

by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

343. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 340 wherein the molecular weight of each of the fragment or fragments is at least 20 kDa, wherein the size in kDa is that determined by gel electrophoresis after disulfide bond reduction.

344. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 339, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

345. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 340, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

346. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 342, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

347. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 343, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

348. (Previously presented) A method of Claim 289 wherein the first individual is suspected of having, or known to have, a neoplastic disease.

349. (Canceled without prejudice).

350. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 348 further comprising the steps of assaying the first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein said appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

351. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 348 or 350 wherein the measurement of a plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments comprises the use of a binding agent, said binding agent capable of binding said fragment or fragments.

352. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 351 wherein the thrombospondin fragment or fragments are separated from thrombospondin before said fragment or fragments are bound to the binding agent.

353. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 351, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

354. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 352, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

355. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 297 wherein the first individual is suspected of having, or known to have, a neoplastic disease.

356. (Canceled without prejudice).

357. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 355 further comprising the steps of assaying the first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein said appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

358. (Previously presented): A method of any one of Claims 355 or 357 wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

359. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 303 wherein the first individual is suspected of having, or known to have, a neoplastic disease.

360. (Canceled without prejudice).

361. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 359 further comprising the steps of assaying the first individual's plasma level of a thrombospondin fragment or fragments more than once, and utilizing a change in said plasma level from an older to a more recent value to indicate appearance or progression or improvement of a neoplastic disease wherein said appearance or progression is indicated by an increase in the plasma level and said improvement is indicated by a decrease in said plasma level.

362. (Previously presented): A method of any one of Claims 359 or 361, wherein the binding agent is an antibody.

363. (Previously presented): A method of any one of Claims 241 or 244, wherein the neoplastic disease is colon cancer.

364. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 265 wherein the neoplastic disease is colon cancer.

365. (Previously presented): A method of any one of Claims 317 or 319, wherein the neoplastic disease is colon cancer.

366. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 322 wherein the neoplastic disease is colon cancer.

367. (Previously presented): A method of any one of Claims 241 or 244, wherein the neoplastic disease is selected from the group consisting of lung cancer and prostate cancer.

368. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 265 wherein the neoplastic disease is selected from the group consisting of lung cancer and prostate cancer.

369. (Previously presented): A method of any one of Claims 317 or 319, wherein the neoplastic disease is selected from the group consisting of lung cancer and prostate cancer.

370. (Previously presented): A method of Claim 322 wherein the neoplastic disease is selected from the group consisting of lung cancer and prostate cancer.